PIDs and the PID Graph
A New Strategy and Approach to Grey Literature

Stefania Biagioni and Carlo Carlesi, CNR-ISTI-Pisa, Italy
Dominic Farace, GreyNet International, Netherlands
Chris Baars, DANS-KNAW, Netherlands

ISTI-CNR, a system provider and GreyNet International, a content provider have now for a near decade collaborated in the design and development of the GreyGuide Rrepository, which now houses various collections of grey literature document types. GreyGuide is fully open access compliant and is registered in the OpenDOAR Directory of Open Access Repositories. GreyGuide provides GreyNet's community of practice with a unique testbed for research in the field of grey literature. The most recent project deals with digital persistent identifiers (PIDS) and the construction of the PID Graph, which allows for further research, education, and training in this field of information.

GreyNet's PID Project relies upon a data infrastructure that is in place and integrated. The fundaments of this project begin first and foremost with the GreyGuide, a registered, open access repository that has come to incorporate digital persistent identifiers namely the DOI assigned to its conference papers, the ORCiD assigned the authors and researchers, and the ROR ID assigned to their research organizations.

The PID Graph is constructed by connecting the three digital persistent identifiers along with their metadata that then allows for their visualization from a number of perspectives. The advantage is that it becomes much easier to create graphs and to implement and scale rather than working with concepts and knowledge mining.

PIDs and the PID Graph are shown to have real value in defining GreyNet's position as a mature research organization by sustaining and leveraging its resources, by adhering to the FAIR data principles, and by signaling increased trust in grey literature beyond its own community of practice.